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SAID & HEARD

BISMARCK, ND – In statements on Thursday, Gov. Doug Burgum and the US Army Corps of Engineers reiterated their commitment to an evacuation date of February 22. They will not extend that deadline. Contractors working for the Corps will enter the camp as soon as possible.

Col. John Henderson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District Commander

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to completing the remediation of the land as soon as possible. After our assessment today, cleanup needs to begin sooner than anticipated. It is imperative that everybody remove their personal property immediately."

Col. John Henderson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District Commander

"It is time for all of us to work together to clean up the camps for the health, welfare, and safety of all involved. We need to tackle this together to prevent further environmental damage to the land and the water."

Chase Iron Eyes, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and spokesman for the camp

"It's completely impossible to remove everything down there in that short of a time frame."

Gov. Doug Burgum

"Public safety and protecting the environment remain our top priorities. We urge those remaining at the camp to allow cleanup efforts to continue and to vacate the camp as soon as possible before potentially life-threatening flooding occurs."

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem

"I urge all remaining individuals to immediately vacate the area known as the 'Oceti Sakowin camp site' so that cleanup work can be completed before the area is inundated with floodwater. The threat to the environment is very real and the situation is urgent. This is about protecting the land and the waters of the Missouri River from pollution from tons of garbage, human waste and other hazardous items. It's time for protesters to either go home, or move to a legal site where they can peaceably continue their activities without risk of further harm to the environment."

Sources: Col. John Henderson; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District Commander; Chase Iron Eyes, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and spokesman for the camp; Gov. Doug Burgum; Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem